

Articles of Confederation vs. The Constitution

Introduction:

The following chart compares some of the provisions of the Articles of Confederation with those in the Constitution. It's important to note that most historians view the Articles period (1781-1789) as a weak one in terms of governmental power. Whether that is a positive or negative for the United States depends on one's point of view regarding the size and influence of a national government.

Directions:

Search the Constitution to find the way in which the framers changed the items listed in the chart. Please identify the location in the Constitution.

	Articles of Confederation	Constitution	Location (Article, Section)
Levying taxes	Congress could request states to pay taxes		
Federal courts	No system of federal courts		
Regulation of trade	No provision to regulate interstate trade		
Executive	No executive with power- President merely presided over Congress		
Amending document	13/13 needed to amend Articles		
Representation of states	Each state received 1 vote regardless of size		
Raising an army	Congress could not draft troops, dependent on states to contribute		
Interstate commerce	No control of trade between states		
Disputes between states	Complicated system of arbitration		
Sovereignty	Sovereignty resides in states		
Passing laws	9/13 needed to approve legislation		